

### **MODEL Limitation on Engine Idling Policy**

This policy establishes a prohibition on the idling of [local government] on-and off-road engines when the vehicle is not moving or when the off-road equipment is not performing work for a period of time greater than five minutes in any one-hour period.

### **SEC.1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE**

The *(insert name of local government)* finds that:

(a) Air pollution is a major public health concern in [insert name of county or city]. [*The [insert name of county] is currently designated as non-attainment for the one-hour Federal ozone standard—insert or remove this section as applicable.*] Air pollution can cause or aggravate lung illnesses such as acute respiratory infections, asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and lung cancer. In addition to health impacts, air pollution imposes significant economic costs and negative impacts on our quality of life (nuisance).

(b) Exhaust from vehicles (both on- and off-road) is a substantial source of ozone precursors in [insert county or city]. Vehicle exhaust is also a source of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases. Although new engines have become cleaner due to improved emission control technologies; the slow turn over in their inventory and the number of miles/hours these vehicles idle each year is hindering progress in improving regional air quality.

(c) Public agencies can play an important role in improving air quality by limiting the amount of time [local government] vehicle engines are allowed to idle within their jurisdiction. Public agencies have the responsibility to lead the effort to improve air quality by adopting policies and ordinances that are cost effective in reducing ozone precursor emissions and toxic air contaminants.

(d) A study of idling exhaust emissions conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA420-R-02-025, October 2002) indicates that a typical 1980s – 2001 model year truck operating on diesel fuel emits 144 grams per hour of nitrogen oxide and 8224 grams per hour of carbon dioxide emissions and consumes about 0.82 gallons of diesel fuel while idling.

(e) Under this Policy, a Limitation on Engine Idling is established by *(insert name of local agency)* to discourage the idling of local government vehicle engines in the *(insert name of local agency)*.

### **SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS**

(a) "Driver" means any person who drives, operates, or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

(b) "Emergency" means a sudden, urgent, usually unforeseen, occurrence.

(c) "Equipment Operator" means any person who is in actual physical control of a piece of off-road equipment.

(d) "Gross Vehicle Weight Rating" means the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

(e) "Heavy-Duty Vehicle" means any on-road motor vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds.

(f) "Idling" means the engine is running while the vehicle is stationary or the piece of offroad equipment is not performing work.

(g) "Medium-Duty Vehicle" means any on-road motor vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 6,001 – 14,000 pounds.

(h) "Official Traffic Control Device" means any sign, signal, marking or device placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning, or guiding traffic, but does not include islands, curbs, traffic barriers, speed humps, speed bumps, or other roadway design features.

(i) "Official Traffic Control Signal" means any device, whether manually, electrically, or mechanically operated, by which traffic is alternately directed to stop and proceed and which is erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction.

(j) "Off-Road Equipment" means all non-road equipment with a horsepower rating of 50 or greater.

(k) "Vehicle" means any on-road, self-propelled vehicle that is required to be registered and have a license plate by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

### **SECTION 3 APPLICABILITY**

There is hereby established a policy to be known as the Limitation on Engine Idling that applies to the operation of all local government vehicles regardless of gross vehicle weight rating, all heavy-duty vehicles regardless of fuel being used, all off-road diesel-powered equipment regardless of horsepower rating, and all off-road equipment regardless of fuel being used, except as provided in Section 5.

### **SECTION 4 IDLING LIMITATION**

(a) A driver of a vehicle:

(1) must turn off the engine upon stopping at a destination ; and

(2) must not cause or allow an engine to idle at any location for:

(i) more than five consecutive minutes; or

- (ii) a period or periods aggregating more than five minutes in any one-hour period.

(b) An equipment operator of an off-road piece of equipment not identified in (a) above:

(1) must not cause or allow an off-road piece of equipment to idle at any location for:

- (i) more than five consecutive minutes; or
- (ii) a period or periods aggregating more than five minutes in any one-hour period.

(c) [Insert Local Government] will ensure that:

(1) the vehicle driver or equipment operator, upon employment and at least once per year thereafter, is informed of the requirements in Section 4 (a) and (b); and

## **SECTION 5. EXEMPTIONS**

This chapter does not apply to a vehicle or piece of equipment for the period or periods during which:

(a) idling is necessary while stopped:

- (1) for an official traffic control device;
- (2) for an official traffic control signal;
- (3) for traffic conditions over which the driver has no control, including, but not limited to: stopped in a line of traffic, stopped at a railroad crossing, or stopped at a construction zone; or
- (4) at the direction of a peace officer;

(b) idling is necessary to ascertain that the vehicle and / or the off-road equipment is in safe operating condition and equipped as required by all provisions of law, and all equipment is in good working order, either as part of the daily vehicle inspection, or as otherwise needed;

(c) idling is necessary for testing, servicing, repairing, or diagnostic purposes;

(d) idling is necessary, for a period not to exceed three to five minutes or as recommended by the manufacturer to cool down a turbo-charged heavy-duty vehicle before turning the engine off;

(e) idling is necessary to accomplish work for which the vehicle / equipment was designed, other than transporting goods, for example: operating a lift, crane, pump, drill,

hoist, ready mixed concrete mixer vehicle, or other auxiliary equipment other than a heater or air conditioner;

(f) idling is necessary to operate a lift or other piece of equipment designed to ensure safe loading and unloading of goods and people;

(g) idling is necessary to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency, but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers;

(h) idling is necessary solely to recharge a battery or other energy storage unit of a hybrid electric vehicle / equipment; or

(i) idling is necessary to operate equipment that runs intermittently.

*[Emergency or Public Safety vehicles are often exempted]*